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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Vocational Rehabilitation of the Handicapped
(PHI/78/012)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1980
Starting date of project activities:	May 1980
Planned completion date:	November 1981
To be executed by:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$253 600
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In line with the national policy of intensifying the development of manpower skills for the achievement of economic self-sufficiency, the Government of the Philippines has made the development of such skills among the handicapped one of its major concerns. To formulate and administer rehabilitation programmes for the physically handicapped and others, a Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation was established in 1954 under an Act of the Republic. The Bureau operates action programmes in vocational, social and community rehabilitation, and in selective employment.

2. A principal objective of the Bureau's rehabilitation programme is to obtain remunerative employment for employable disabled persons. It is estimated that some 4 million Philippine citizens are disabled, of whom 1 million may be classified as employable. Due to limited available finances and facilities, the Bureau currently finds employment, including self-employment, only for some 10,000 persons per year.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third party cost sharing).

3. An overall assessment of the Bureau identified efficiency as well as the quantity and quality of output as the major deficiencies in its rehabilitation and employment services. To expand and strengthen existing vocational training facilities, and thereby overcome these weaknesses, the Government has requested UNDP assistance.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) upgrade and expand existing vocational training services for the disabled in urban and rural areas; (b) strengthen and reorganize community-based efforts throughout the country, making existing training facilities for the able-bodied as accessible as possible to disabled persons; (c) reorganize sheltered workshop facilities for the severely disabled both in rural and urban areas; (d) create a new employment scheme through the implementation of two pilot co-operatives for the handicapped; and (e) introduce schemes for the future training and permanent upgrading of rehabilitation staff. To this end, the national and international staff working together will: (a) improve existing training programmes; (b) revise training standards and contents; (c) produce training materials; (d) equip/re-equip four area centres; (e) upgrade the selective employment programme and (f) further train the staff and establish a continuing programme of staff development.

III. Inputs

5. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the ILO, the services of a vocational rehabilitation adviser and a project evaluation consultant. UNDP will also finance fellowships and group training in various fields of vocational rehabilitation; it will supply training materials, audio-visual aids, equipment for co-operatives and the four existing training centres; and miscellaneous.

6. The Government of the Philippines will provide qualified professional and support staff, funds for the training of personnel, training materials and travel expenses, operational facilities and premises, land and workshop facilities for pilot co-operatives, and supplies directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	69 500
Training	52 300
Equipment	126 800
Miscellaneous	5 000
	253 600

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $993,260 in kind.

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